

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 03058 131414Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 AGRE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 OES-07 FEA-01
INT-05 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 STR-05 /096 W
-----095080 140648Z /20

R 131330Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1403

LIMITED OFFICIAL UES PORT OF SPAIN 3058

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GY, TD
SUBJECT: TRINIDADIAN SUPPORT FOR GUYANA SUGAR STRIKE

REF: A) GEORGE 2471; B) PORT OF SPAIN 2993;
C) GEORGETOWN 2530

1. FURTHER TO REF B, THE LOCAL PRESS IS CONTINUING COVERAGE OF TRINIDADIAN LABOR UNION SUPPORT FOR GUYANA'S STRIKING SUGAR WORKERS. "EXPRESS" OF OCTOBER 12 REPORTS THAT, IN ADDITION TO ITS OFFER TO CEASE LOADING GUYANA-BOUND TANKERS, THE OILFIELD WORKERS TRADE UNION (OWTU) IS GIVING FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE GUYANA AGRICULTURAL WORKERS UNION (GAWU). "TRINIDAD GUARDIAN" OF OCTOBER 12 STATES THAT BASDEO PANDAY'S SUGAR WORKERS UNION VOTED OCTOBER 10 TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL HELP TO THEIR GUYANESE COUNTERPARTS AND THAT THE TRANSPORT AND INDUSTRIAL WORKERS UNION (TIWU) ALSO HAS MADE A SMALL CASH CONTRIBUTION.

2. EMBASSY HAS QUERIED TEXACO, PRESUMABLY THE COMPANY THAT WOULD BE AFFECTED BY ANY REFUSAL OF OWTU MEMBERS TO LOAD TANKERS, AND OUR CONTACT THERE HAS HEARD OF NO
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SUCH MOVE. PANDAY HAS BEEN QUOTED IN THE PRESS AS SAYING THAT OWTU PRESIDENT WEEKES COULD NOT FORCE HIS MEMBERS TO TAKE SUCH ACTION. MODERATE LABOR LEADERS WITH WHOM LABOFF HAS SPOKEN GENERALLY AGREE WITH PANDAY'S ASSESSMENT. IN ANY EVENT, WE UNDERSTAND, IN CONFIRMATION OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN PARA 5 OF REF C, THAT ANY MOVE HERE WOULD BE INEFFECTIVE

BECAUSE GUYANA HAS OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPLY OF PETROLEUM
THROUGH EXXON AND SHELL.

3. COMMENT. THE THREE UNIONS WHICH SO FAR HAVE ANNOUNCED
MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR GAWU ARE CLOSELY TIED WITH THE
OPPOSITION UNITED LABOR FRONT (ULF) AND REPRESENT THE
POLITICAL LEFT. IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT SPLIT IN THE ULF,
IT IS DIFFICULT TO AVOID THE CONCLUSION THAT THE ACTIONS
OF WEEKES AND PANDAY IN PARTICULAR IN THIS MATTER HAVE
AS MUCH TO DO WITH THEIR INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS AS
WITH CONCERN FOR GAWU'S FATE.
FOX

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUGAR, UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ARBITRATION, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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